



GRAPHIC NOVELS & COMICS ROUND TABLE

American Library Association Graphic Novels & Comics Roundtable
(GNCRT) / <http://www.ala.org/rt/gncrt> / @libcomix

2022 – 2023 Presidential Priorities

Developed by Moni Barrette

My previous leadership roles within GNCRT have informed my presidency as we have been shaping what a new, rapidly growing RT is within the greater umbrella of ALA. The need for transparency, partnerships among our members and outside of GNCRT, clear communication strategies, and dedication to diversity, equity, and inclusion are of utmost importance, both to me and for this round table to continue successfully moving forward. What is also clear are the challenges facing the profession-both overall and to comics specifically, and the continued need to fight for legitimacy and against censorship of comics and manga in libraries. Finally, library worker resources and capacity remain a challenge in this time of pandemic and shortages. It is vital to seek an intentional balance of priorities, planning, and understanding of true cost versus benefit towards the greater good.

Having stated all this, my priorities for the coming year are as follows:

Increase Membership Involvement/Engagement

- Bi-annual town halls
- Designated Board/committee member(s) posting to membership Connect frequently
- Include updates for volunteer opportunities, both within and external to GNCRT
- Support re-formation and expansion of Membership Committee

Increase Professional Opportunities for Membership

- Extend and support Mentorship Exploratory Committee
- Explore convention/conference attendance scholarship opportunities

Increase Documentation and Archiving of Board and RT processes and history

- Continued attention to, maintenance of, updates and revisions for organizational documents such as the Handbook
- Annual Reports
- Create a new workflow for Committee Chairs, Board members and other RT leaders to document tasks and best practices.

Increase Diversity, Inclusion, & Accessibility

- Continue and expand targeted partnerships with ALA Affiliate groups
- Successful BCALA partnership best practices to be examined and expanded, first to RTs with membership overlap to GNCRT.
- Continued expectations of regular diverse representation on panels/presentations, and dedication to diversity when choosing committee chairs and members.
- Continue to operate outside paywalls (conference/convention costs are prohibitive) and make content free when possible.
- Do not hold mandatory meetings during paid activities, such as ALA Annual.
- Inclusion of creators and publishers at varying levels of professional visibility, e.g. new creators, self-published, and small press.
- Include student GNCRT members and early/mid-level career library workers by ensuring they have many volunteer and leadership opportunities.

Expand Comics and Comics Librarian Resources

- Continue and expand professional resource creation through committees and projects such as the Addressing Challenges Committee
- Create an environment where comics librarians feel they can reach out with comics challenges and are prepared to meet the growing demands
- Continue to create and expand the reach of Best of Lists
- Gather information about best practices to support the use of manga in libraries and add official GNCRT support to these efforts when possible.